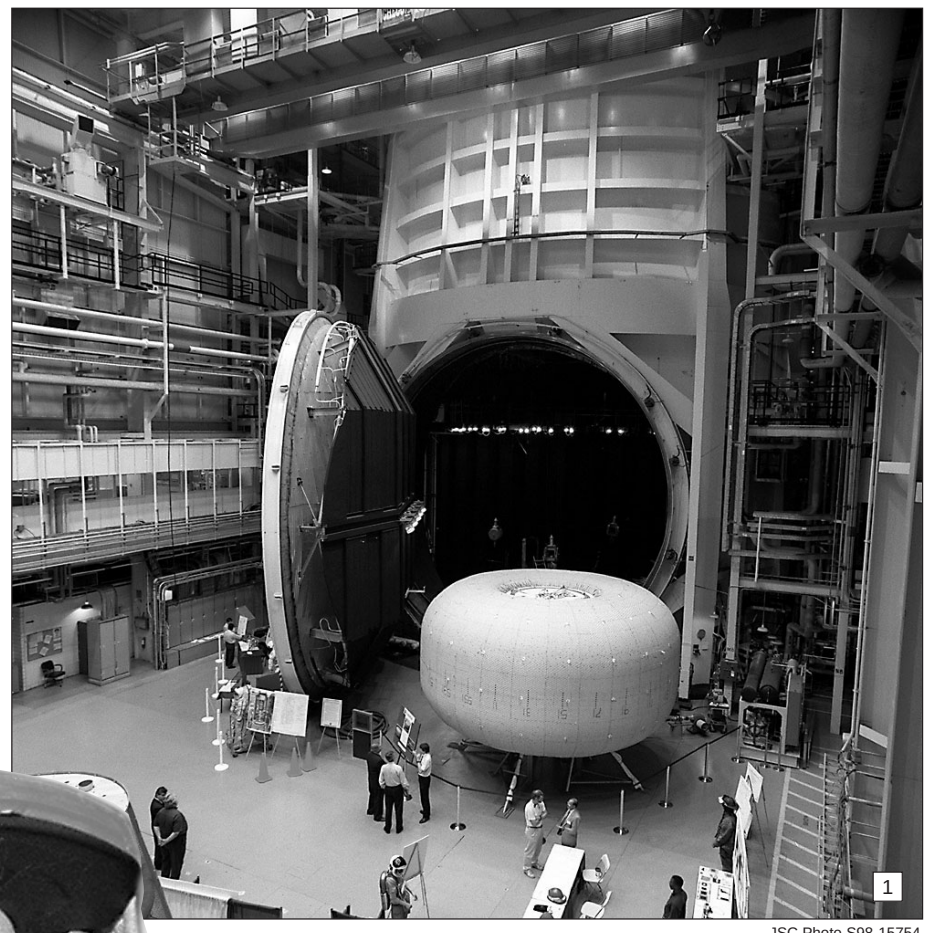
Inspection 98 attracts record crowd

- *Carbon nanotubes*
- *Shape memory alloy actuators*
- *Microencapsulated drugs*
- *Printed circuit board rapid prototyping*



JSC Photo S98-15754

These were just a few of the technologies on display during Inspection 98. During the three-day event, JSC exhibited its facilities, technologies and expertise to approximately 2,700 industry, community and academic leaders from 41 states, the District of Columbia and 21 foreign countries and, in their view, it was a huge success.

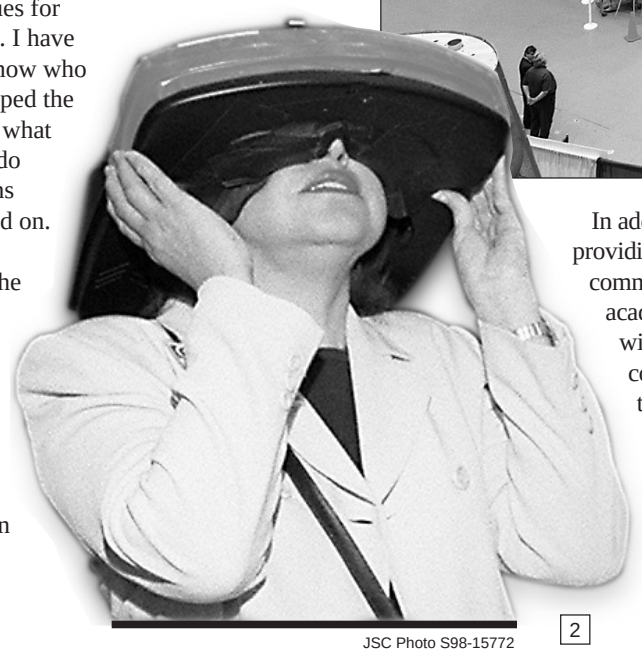
"I'm very impressed by Inspection 98," said Dave Isaacs, news director for radio station KLBJ-AM in Austin. "I attended your Open House, and it's fascinating to see some of the same exhibits but with a far greater depth of technical explanation and background. It was fun to skim the surface with the public, but this event offers a chance to look much deeper."

William Garwood, associate administrator of Angleton Danbury General Hospital, said he came to Inspection 98 primarily to learn more about medical technologies but that other exhibits attracted his attention as well.

"I'm interested in the medical technologies area, but I have a personal interest in virtually every aspect of the exhibits that I've seen," said Garwood. "For example, I talked to some exhibitors from White Sands about fire protection as it relates to similar concerns that we have in hospitals with oxygen systems."

Although JSC technologies and capabilities greatly impressed the guests, it was the I98 volunteers who made the event successful. Repeatedly, visitors indicated they found the one-on-one communication with JSC employees of particular value.

Brett Williams, a science teacher at Fredericksburg High School, commented, "I have an aeroscience program that could be considered progressive, and I've needed a lot of assistance in many ways. I would say the most wonderful thing I found would be the technical assistants. I met several people here at JSC who introduced me to others and broadened my avenues for resources. I have students now who have grasped the reality of what they can do when reins aren't held on. They are pushing the envelope so fast and so hard that I'm having trouble keeping in front of them."



JSC Photo S98-15772

In addition to providing business, community and academic leaders with one-on-one contact with the technology and projects at JSC, the success of I98 also may be measured by the creation of new opportunities for visitors and for NASA.

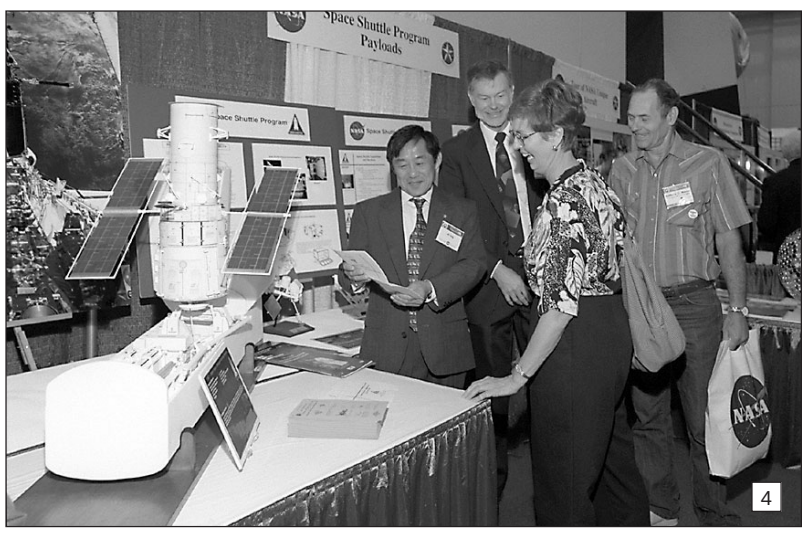
Dr. Bob Rice, from the Institute of Somatic Sciences, said he attended Inspection 96 as a visitor and was invited as an exhibitor last year and again this year.

"This year attendees who visited our exhibit not only viewed the technology but also visualized how it could apply to their fields," said Rice. "For example, a doctor from M.D. Anderson who is in radiology and is associated with cardiac catheterization, a procedure that is very difficult to teach to residents, saw in the interface between virtual reality and haptic technology a perfect model system to simulate the experience of spreading a catheter in, knowing when a junction of an artery has been penetrated, and knowing when the heart has been reached."

Inspection attendees were able to submit requests for further information on exhibits of particular interest. Six hundred such requests were received from 328 organizations, an impressive 40 percent of which indicated a strong interest in licensing, commercializing, applying or utilizing a JSC technology or in establishing a collaborative partnership or agreement with JSC. Advanced materials, telecommunications, manufacturing, software and medicine were among the areas of greatest interest.

JSC's Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office is coordinating responses to these requests. Thus the potential exists for an unprecedented number of technology transfer success stories to develop over the upcoming months and years. ■

JSC Photo S98-15758



JSC Photo S98-15759

JSC Photo S98-15769 Benny Benavides

1. Inspection 98 guests were able to catch a glimpse of the TransHab, the large-volume, inflatable space vehicle under development at JSC. The TransHab is a new design for a habitation element for lengthy space missions. The concept could be developed as a habitation or even a laboratory module for the International Space Station.

2. Eva Ponce, assistant principal of Reagan High School in Houston, takes a virtual reality tour.

3. Allen Flynt (right) of the EVA Project Office discusses Russian spacesuit technology with Manuel Salazar and Roxana Calzada, students at Northrop Rice Aviation.

4. Al Ong, payload integration manager in the Space Shuttle Program Office, discusses space shuttle payloads with Hazel Fipps-Mann, J. E. Conner Museum educator from Kingsville, Texas.

5. Engineering and manufacturing employees in Bldg. 220 assemble the X-38 V-201 structure as Space Center Houston tour visitors look on during Inspection 98.